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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

**INFORMATION REPORT**

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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

SUBJECT Soviet Soldiers Employed at Tank Repair Shop  
at Kirchmüser

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1. Until May 1953 about 300 German mechanics were employed in the tank repair shop at Kirchmüser. Early in May they were discharged and replaced by members of the Red Army. The shop now employs about 1,000 Soviet soldiers, coming from the garrisons in Brandenburg, Magdeburg, Köthen and Stendal.
2. The shop is newly equipped throughout. The most modern cranes and hoists make quick, well-organized repairs possible. There is capacity to completely overhaul 60 tanks at a time. Only general overhauls are carried out in the main. Other repairs are made in the field, on location, by traveling workshops. The Kirchmüser shop itself has six repair trains of four cars each; also eight tank transports which formerly were used as car transports by the German national railways. They are now the property of the Red Army.
3. In July 1953, Kirchmüser repaired 163 tanks. They belonged to the Eighth Shock Army at Magdeburg. In August, 182 tanks were repaired. These were from an armored division then stationed in the Jena area, but now most probably shifted to Frankfurt an der Oder. According to statements of Soviet soldiers, the unit is engaged in maneuvers in the Sagan area.
4. The tanks overhauled at Kirchmüser are mainly T-34s. The T-34 has been equipped principally with the 85 mm gun, but now is being almost altogether outfitted with 150 mm guns delivered from the Soviet Union. The radio installations are also being replaced by new ones.

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